

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TSPA JA US

SUBJ: COOPERATIVE SPACE ACTIVITIES - VISIT OF DR HIDEO SHIMA

REF: TOKYO 14437

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH SCICOUNS TODAY, SHIMA CONFIRMED THAT NASDA INTERESTED IN HYDROGEN-OXYGEN TECHNOLOGY ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS. ACCORDING TO SHIMA AND KURODA, PROBLEM ARISES DUE TO TOXIC NATURE OF BOTH SECOND-STAGE PROPELLANT AND OXIDANT, AND FACT THAT NASDA GROUND TEST FACILITIES ARE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO POPULATED AREA WHOSE RESIDENTS HAVE ALREADY MADE COMPLAINTS. THUS, HYDROGEN-OXYGEN OF INTEREST DUE TO NON TOXIC NATURE. HOWEVER, SOMEWHAT IN CONTRAST TO IMPRESSIONS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, SHIMA STRESSED THAT INTEREST IN HYDROGEN-OXYGEN IS OF LONG-RANGE NATURE. IMMEDIATE NASDA PLAN CONTINUES TO BE TO PURSUE IMPROVED "N" ROCKET WITH 9 STRAP-ON BOOSTERS, ELONGATED FUEL TANKS, AND ENLARGED SECOND STAGE EMPLOYING NORMAL PROPELLANTS; THUS, PLAN IS NOT RPT NOT TO "LEAP-FROG" 2914 CONFIGURATION.

2. TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM NOTED ABOVE, SHIMA OBSERVED THAT NASDA EXPECTED TO PURCHASE SECOND-STAGE ENGINE OF LARGELY US MANUFACTURE, SO AS TO MINIMIZE GROUND TEST REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN. NASDA ALSO EXPECTS TO BUY FIRST STAGE SHELL IN US DUE

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TO HIGH COSTS WHICH WOULD BE INCURRED FOR PRODUCING LIMITED

QUANTITY OF THIS ITEM IN JAPAN. SHIMA HOPES DURING US VISIT TO BJEVIEW IMPROVED "N" ROCKET REQUEST "ITEM-BY-ITEM." ON ITEMS FOR WHICH WE UNWILLING TO MEET REQUEST, HE IMPLIED, JAPAN WILL HAVE TO PURSUE INDEPENDENT COURSE.

3. RE DOWN-RANGE STATION, SCICOUNS REFERRED TO POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF US TRACKING SHIP. SHIMA POLITELY DISMISSED THIS OPTION AS BEING OF TOO HIGH A COST.

4. KURODA INFORMED SCICOUNS THAT NASDA BUDGET REQUEST FOR JFY 1974, NOW BEING FINALIZED, WILL BE FOR 500,000 MILLION YEN, AS COMPARED WITH 300,000 MILLION ALCCATED IN CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. MAJOR JUMP CONFIRMS REPORTS THAT JAPANESE SPACE DEVELOPMENT COSTS RUNNING FAR HIGHER THAN ESTIMATES, AND INDICATES THAT PROGRAM WILL FACE SERIOUS SLIPPAGES UNLESS MORE FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE. INGERSOLL

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